[15th March 1929

(c) if the reply to (a) and (b) is in the affirmative, whether the Government will issue orders to raise the F.T L. of Veeranam tank to the top level of shutters so as to make good the deficiency in storage for meeting the requirements of the large ayacut under the tank; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the Veeranam is in all years drained completely to facilitate the fishery after the closure of irrigation season (31st March) prejudicial to the interests of the ryots under Veeranam?

A.—A report has been called for.

Land Revenue

Deduction for baling water in the Godavari and Kistna deltas.

11-15 a.m. * 1749 *Q.*—Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to question No. 1379, on 1st February 1929, regarding deduction for baling water in the Godavari and Kistna deltas—

(a) whether the calculations of the Settlement Officer, Mr. Master, made in the year 1861 would be placed on the table of the House; and

(b) at what rate the said officer settled the cost of baling water with reference to the labour involved?

A.— (a) & (b) Mr. Master's report in which he made the calculations has not been preserved.

Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware of the fact that the allowance given is out of all proportion to the labour involved?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks:—"It is not so much out of proportion as the charge made for water is to its commercial purposes."

Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu:—"May I take it, Sir, that the charge for the taking of water is based on a commercial basis?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks:—"No, Sir."

Alleged overlooking of the claims of graduates for promotion in the Cuddapah Collectorate.

* 1750 *Q.*—Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Cuddapah district a junior Matriculate by name Mr. Krishnamachari was appointed Sub-Magistrate recently by a retiring Collector Mr. P. T. Srinivasachari in preference to many senior graduates by his name being included in the list as a special case;

(b) whether he is being continued as a Sub-Magistrate in spite of the reversion of his seniors; and

(c) whether the Government propose to remedy the grievances of the graduates whose claims were overlooked at least now?

A.— (a) (b) & (c) Collectors appoint deputy tahsildars and sub-magistrates from a list of persons previously approved by the Board of Revenue. The Government do not interfere in the selection of individuals for these appointments and do not propose to interfere in this case.

15th March 1929]

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Sir, I am sorry to say my question has not been answered. I want to know whether the fact mentioned in the question actually happened."

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Sir, I thought the hon. Member was aware of the fact when he gave us the information. If he wishes to know whether that gentleman was appointed I shall be glad to find out and let him know."

Navigation

Rise in the price of firewood in the Madras City.

*1751 Q.—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the abrupt rise in the price of firewood in the city during the last three weeks, and if so, what the causes are;

(b) what is the quantity of firewood brought by rail and water into the city during 1926, 1927 and 1928, and what portion of it is obtained from Government forests;

(c) what area of Government forests has been leased for the purpose during 1928 and what is the number of lessees;

(d) whether it is a fact that areas are auctioned in too big lots for small lessees and if so, what is the size of the lots;

(e) whether the Government have provided alternative facilities for fuel supply to the city by reason of the closing of the Buckingham canal;

(f) what is the extent of casuarina plantations owned by Government and whether it would be feasible to increase the area;

(g) whether Government would consider the advisability of requesting the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company to supply enough wagons to keep up the supply of firewood to the city; and

(h) whether Government propose to consider at an early date any means of controlling rise in price of firewood in the city or of increasing supplies of it?

A.—(a), (e) & (h) The Government are aware that subsequent to the closure of the Buckingham canal (Adyar-Covelong reach) the retail price of firewood in the City of Madras rose from ten annas to fourteen annas per 56 lb. In order to facilitate the transport of firewood the Government have ordered that the improvements to the canal should be taken up by small lengths, of a mile or so at a time, leaving intervals of one week, and allowing the traffic to pass during such intervals. G.O. No. 673 I., dated 25th February 1929, issued by the Government in that connexion has been published.

(b), (c), (d) & (f) The Government have no information. A report has been called for.

(g) The Government propose to await the effect of the orders in G.O. No. 673 I., dated 25th February 1929, for a period of one month. If at the end of that period it is found that there has been no appreciable reduction in the price of firewood the suggestion will be considered.